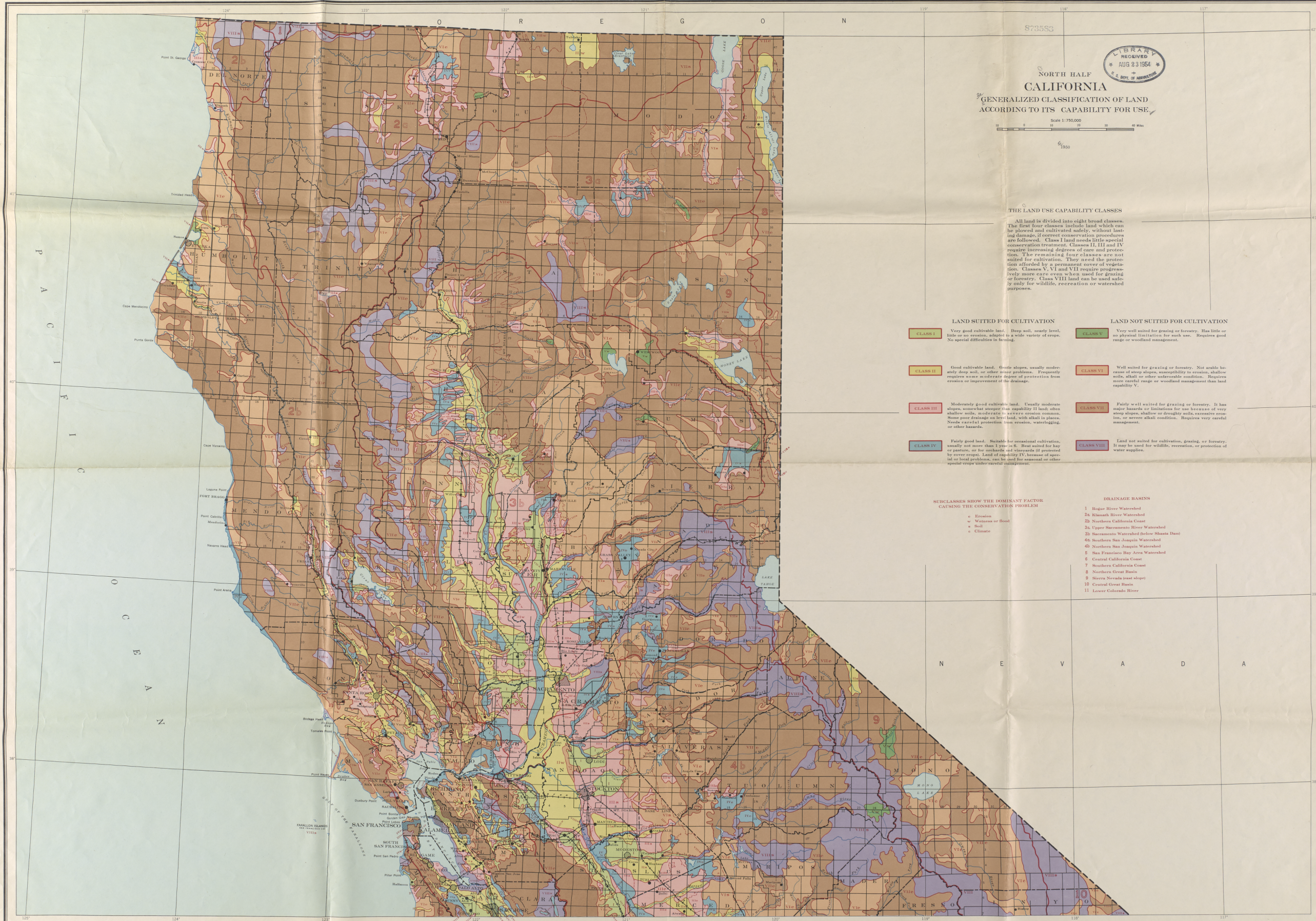


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Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.







S73583

NORTH HALF  
**CALIFORNIA**

GENERALIZED CLASSIFICATION OF LAND  
ACCORDING TO ITS CAPABILITY FOR USE

Scale 1:750,000  
1950

THE LAND USE CAPABILITY CLASSES

All land is divided into eight broad classes. The first four classes include land which can be plowed and cultivated safely, without lasting damage, if correct conservation procedures are followed. Class I land needs little special conservation treatment. Classes II, III and IV require increasing degrees of care and protection. The remaining four classes are not suited for cultivation. They need the protection afforded by a permanent cover of vegetation. Classes V, VI and VII require progressively more care even when used for grazing or forestry. Class VIII land can be used safely only for wildlife, recreation or watershed purposes.

LAND SUITED FOR CULTIVATION

**CLASS I** Very good cultivable land. Deep soil, nearly level, little or no erosion, adapted to a wide variety of crops. No special difficulties in farming.

**CLASS II** Good cultivable land. Gentle slopes, usually moderately deep soil, or other minor problems. Frequently requires some moderate degree of protection from erosion or improvement of the drainage.

**CLASS III** Moderately good cultivable land. Usually moderate slopes, somewhat steeper than capability II land; often shallow soils, moderate to severe erosion common. Some poor drainage on level land, with alkali in places. Needs careful protection from erosion, waterlogging, or other hazards.

**CLASS IV** Fairly good land. Suitable for mechanical cultivation, usually not more than 2 years in 8. Best suited for hay or pasture, or for orchards and vineyards (if protected by cover crops). Land of capability IV, because of special or local problems, can be used for seasonal or other special crops under careful management.

LAND NOT SUITED FOR CULTIVATION

**CLASS V** Very well suited for grazing or forestry. Has little or no physical limitation for such use. Requires good range or woodland management.

**CLASS VI** Well suited for grazing or forestry. Not suitable because of steep slopes, susceptibility to erosion, shallow soils, alkali or other unfavorable condition. Requires more careful range or woodland management than land capability V.

**CLASS VII** Fairly well suited for grazing or forestry. It has major hazards or limitations for use because of very steep slopes, shallow or droughty soils, excessive erosion, or severe alkali condition. Requires very careful management.

**CLASS VIII** Land not suited for cultivation, grazing, or forestry. It may be used for wildlife, recreation, or protection of water supplies.

SUBCLASSES SHOW THE DOMINANT FACTOR CAUSING THE CONSERVATION PROBLEM

- Erosion
- Wetness or flood
- Soil
- Climate

DRAINAGE BASINS

- 1 Rogue River Watershed
- 2a Klamath River Watershed
- 2b Northern California Coast
- 3a Upper Sacramento River Watershed
- 3b Sacramento Watershed (below Shasta Dam)
- 4b Southern San Joaquin Watershed
- 4c Northern San Joaquin Watershed
- 5 San Francisco Bay Area Watershed
- 6 Central California Coast
- 7 Southern California Coast
- 8 Northern Great Basin
- 9 Sierra Nevada (east slope)
- 10 Central Great Basin
- 11 Lower Colorado River